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Test of Soviet Intentions

The final and real test of the intentions of the Soviet leaders will remain their willingness to accept those basic institutional changes that can give the Russian people and the world in general genuine assurance that a one-man or three or four-man dictatorship cannot again plot in secret the massive domestic or international crimes of the recent past . . .

The Soviet people well remember that Stalin, himself, started as one of a triumvirate not very different from the collective leadership of which the Soviet leaders now boast. How can the Soviet people, themselves, be sure that this small group of men in the Politburo who exercise complete and arbitrary control over the lives of all the peoples of the USSR will not, in the course of a few years, again lead to a personal dictatorship with all the vices that they now attribute to Stalinism? Is it not the system itself, not the "cult of personality," that breeds tyranny and cruelty and ends in the revolution devouring its own children?—*Allen W. Dulles, Director of Central Intelligence, in an address to the Los Angeles World Affairs Council on April 13, 1956.*